REMARKS

Claims 1-12 were pending at the time of the Office Action. In this Amendment, claim 10 has been canceled, and claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 9, 11 and 12 have been amended to clarify an aspect of the subject matter. Support is found in, for example, FIG. 6 and corresponding descriptions. Claims 1-9 and 11-12 are pending for consideration, of which claims 1 and 6 are independent.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 6 and 12 were objected to because of informalities.

In response, the claim language "virtual Local Area Network," "configured to stores information," and "(VLAN} number," in claims 1, 6 and 12 have been changed to "Virtual Local Area Network," "configured to store information," and "(VLAN) number," respectively.

The claim language "the virtual processing," and "the processing flow," in claim 1, which was indicated as lacking antecedent basis, has been changed to "the virtual processing unit," "a flow of processing," respectively. In addition, the claim language "the retrieval result," in claim 1, which was indicated as lacking antecedent basis, has been removed.

In view of the above amendments to claims 1, 6 and 12 and the remarks, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

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With respect to indication of indefiniteness regarding retrieval results from different searches, the retrieval results are distinguished by adding terms "first," through "fourth" before "retrieval result." The amendment clarifies that the first (through fourth) retrieval result are obtained from the first (through fourth) search.

With respect to indication of indefinites regarding "extract an input data type number, a destination address and a VLAN number from the data frames," "modify the data frame," and "the output data type number," appropriate corrections have been made as suggested by the Examiner.

The corrections have been made not only to claims indicated by the Examiner and other claims. The specification has been amended in conformity with the amendments to claims as well.

In view of amendments to claims and the above remarks, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-12 were indicated as being allowable if amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and the claim objection set forth in the Office Action. Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for so indicating.

The Office Action included a Statement of Reasons for Allowance. Although Applicants agree that the claims are patentable over the art, entry of the Statement into the record should not necessarily be construed as any agreement with or acquiescence by Applicants in the particular reasoning set forth in the Statement, particularly to the extent if any that the wording used in the

Statement may differ from the actual claim language and/or the otherwise proper interpretation of the claim language in view of the specification and prosecution history.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that this application should be allowed and the case passed to issue. If there are any questions regarding this Amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated to expedite the prosecution of the application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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